

SENIOR GARDENER

DEFINITION

To lead and participate in a variety of routine to difficult manual work in the care and maintenance of City's parks, recreational areas, irrigation systems, and structure repair work in accordance with established procedures; operate and maintain related tools and equipment; and to perform related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the advanced journey or lead level class in the Gardener series. Incumbents perform the full range of duties as assigned and receive occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise, and are fully aware of the operating procedures and policies of the work unit. Employees in this class are distinguished from the Gardener II class in that the Senior level provides technical and/or functional guidance over assigned staff.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives direction from assigned supervisor.

Exercises technical and/or functional guidance over assigned staff.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS – Functions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Lead and participate in landscaping and irrigation activities such as the techniques and methods of maintaining plants, shrubs, lawns, athletic surfaces and irrigation systems, and other assigned areas; perform the most skilled or complex duties.

Operate and maintain a variety of hand and power landscaping tools and equipment used in landscaping and irrigations systems.

Secure worksites from traffic hazards as necessary; monitor work in progress at the work site; provide technical assistance to crews and direct corrections and modification as appropriate.

Train and instruct new and less experienced employees in proper work methods, tools, equipment, and safety precautions; ensure safety of work sites by utilizing appropriate safety methods, equipment and devices, including traffic control.

Discuss work to be performed with supervisor; plan, organize and assign work to designated crew.

Inspect job sites to ensure the proper maintenance of plants, shrubs, lawns, medians and other landscaped areas.

Plan and design irrigation systems; install, maintain and repair piping, valves and timers.

Construct and maintain park and playground equipment and structures as needed; check playground equipment for safety and make minor repairs as needed; report major damage to supervisor.

Assist in planning landscaping systems, diagnosing and treating plant problems.

Apply fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides in a safe manner as directed.

Act as Parks Supervisor in his/her absence as directed; provide input on employee evaluations.

Assign, review and perform minor painting, plumbing and carpentry work incidental to maintaining parks and facilities.

Keep work related records using a computer.

Clean and maintain park grounds and other assigned areas, including athletic fields, tennis courts, paved areas, paths, walkways, playgrounds, and stairways.

Clean, maintain and restock restrooms and other park buildings; pick up trash and litter.

Operate City trucks, trailers and tractors with attachments skillfully and safely.

Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, other City employees and the public using principles of good customer services.

Perform other related duties as assigned.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

#### Knowledge of:

Methods and techniques of planting, transplanting, cultivating, pruning and maintaining a variety of lawns, ground covers, plants, shrubs, hedges and trees.

Practices of assigning and reviewing the work of others.

Methods and equipment used in weed, pest and insect control, and treating plant diseases, soil preparation and enrichment, herbicides and fertilizers.

Installation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation systems.

Use and minor maintenance of commonly used hand and power landscaping tools and equipment.

Pertinent rules, laws, and policies related to assignment.

Practices and procedures of traffic control and flagging.

Safe work practices used in gardening work, including the use of personal protective equipment.

Basic painting, plumbing and carpentry methods, tools and techniques.

Principles and practices of conflict resolution.

Computer equipment and software applications related to assignment.

English usage, spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Ability to:

Lead, assign, train, and review the work of others.

Recognize common plants, plant diseases and insect pests.

Train and instruct others in proper work methods and landscape maintenance techniques.

Use and operate tools and equipment related to assignment.

Keep work related records and prepare reports using a computer.

Work effectively at remote locations without direct supervision.

Operate City vehicles observing legal and defensive driving practices.

Follow oral instructions and read, interpret, follow and explain written instructions, construction sketches and equipment manuals.

Use initiative and sound independent judgment within established guidelines.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

In the absence of supervisor, assume responsibilities as needed.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Work with various cultural and ethnic groups in a tactful and effective manner.

Experience and Training

Any combination of experience and training that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Experience:

Two years of responsible journey level experience in landscape maintenance.

Training:

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth grade.

License or Certificate

Possession of a valid California driver's license.

Possession of a California Qualified Applicator's Certificate is desirable.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

On a continuous basis walk, stand, bend, crouch or stoop, sit in jolting cab for varying periods of time; use hands and fingers to grasp tools; make repetitive hand and body motions; twist and reach below and above shoulder, climb ladders and perform physical activities on a continual basis; verbal ability to communicate in person, use a two-way radio, and use a telephone; lift or carry weight of 50 pounds or less. See in the normal vision range with or without correction; hear in the normal range with or without correction.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Work is performed outdoors with exposure to a variety of weather conditions as well as traffic, noise, physical barriers, around heavy equipment, fumes and odors of fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides.